



OSPHRANTER ANTILOPINUS: Gould

L. Bachmann del. sculp.

J. Auden sculp.

OSPHRANTER ANTILOPINUS, Gould.

Red Wallaroo.

Spec. Char.—MAS. *Osph. vellere rigido, adpresso; colore ferruginoso, apud faciem et humeros pallidiore; corpore subtus albo.*

FEM. *Vellere minus rigido et magis laxo quàm in mare; colore ex arenaceo fusciscente, apud humeros, nucham, et faciem vinaceo-cinereo; notâ flavescenti-fulvâ ante aures, et alterâ pallidiore per labrum ductâ.*

Descr.—MALE. Fur of the body rigid and adpressed; general colour rusty red, becoming paler on the face and shoulders, and white or yellowish white on the throat, chest, abdomen and inside of the limbs; hands and feet dark reddish brown, passing into black on the toes; tip of the tail reddish brown.

FEMALE. Fur less rigid and more loose than in the male; general colour reddish sandy brown, passing into vinous grey on the shoulders, back of the neck and face; base of the ear externally dark brownish grey, passing into yellowish white towards the tips; immediately in front of the ear a conspicuous patch of yellowish buff; a light buff mark also extends from beneath the eye along the upper lip; throat, chest, abdomen and inside of the limbs pale yellowish white; hands and feet dark brown, becoming black towards the nails.

	Male.		Female.	
	feet.	inches.	feet.	inches.
Length from the nose to the extremity of the tail	7	3	5	6
„ of tail	2	9	2	3
„ „ tarsus and toes, including the nail	1	1		11
„ „ arm and hand, including the nails	1	2		11
„ „ face from the tip of the nose to the base of the ear		7½		6
„ „ ear		4½		3½

Osphranter Antilopinus, Gould in Proc. of Zool. Soc., Part IX. p. 80.

Mar-ra-a-woke of the Aborigines of Port Essington.

From the period at which Australia was first visited by our enterprising navigators to the present time, our knowledge of its natural productions has been almost entirely confined to those of the narrow and limited tract of land bordering its eastern and southern shores; and it may fairly be said, that the whole of the zoology of the vast range of country washed by the seas of Torres' Straits is as much or more unknown than that of any similar extent of country in the world; and in exemplification of what I have here asserted of our ignorance of the productions of that region, I may mention that the noble Kangaroo here figured is only one of many new and interesting animals I have lately received from these parts. It is very abundant on the Cobourg Peninsula, and I have no doubt that, when the country towards the interior from these parts is explored, it will there be found in great numbers, particularly on the hilly ground, and that it possesses an extensive range, assimilating very closely in habits and economy to the great Black Wallaroo (*Osphranter robustus*), its remarkable analogue of the southern and eastern coasts.

Two very fine specimens, from which my figures and dimensions are taken, were collected by Mr. Gilbert while at Port Essington, and these in all probability are the only perfect specimens in Europe: the weight of the male was about one hundred and twenty pounds. Captain Chambers, however, late of H.M.S. Pelorus, has placed at my disposal, for the purpose of comparison, &c., several imperfect skins of this species, which clearly indicate that the animal frequently attains a much larger size; and that gentleman also assured me that he has himself seen examples weighing one hundred and seventy pounds; few species therefore exceed it in size, and certainly, with the exception of *Macropus laniger*, none in the richness of its colour and markings. Captain Chambers further informed me, that when hardly pressed in the chase it becomes exceedingly fierce and bold, and while among the rocks a most dangerous animal to encounter, one of his finest dogs being tumbled over a precipice and killed by an old male: in this fierceness of disposition it exhibits a striking resemblance to the Black Wallaroo; they also closely assimilate in the diminutive size of their females.